



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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TINA BRADWAY, Individually and as  
Administratrix of the Estate of  
TONY BRADWAY,

Plaintiff,

-against-

Civil Action No.  
09-CV-3177  
(JFB) (MLO)

THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, LINDA A. KABOT,  
OFFICER JAMES KIERNAN, OFFICER ERIC SICKLES,  
OFFICER VINCENT CAGNO, OFFICER STEVE  
FRANKENBACH, OFFICER DAVID PETERS,  
OFFICER WILLIAM KIERNAN and OFFICER MONTALBANO,

Defendants.

-----X  
April 13, 2011

10:34 a.m.

1425 RXR Plaza

Uniondale, New York

DEPOSITION of CHARLES WETLI, M.D., the  
Expert Witness herein, testifying on behalf of  
the Defendants, taken by the Plaintiff, pursuant  
to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Notice,  
held at the above-mentioned time and place,  
before Lori Anne Curtis, a Notary Public of the  
State of New York.

**CERTIFIED  
TRANSCRIPT**

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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5 RUSKIN, MOSCOU & FALTISCHEK, INC.  
6 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
7 1425 RXR Plaza  
8 Uniondale, New York 11556  
9 BY: THOMAS TELESCA, ESQ.

10

11 DEVITT SPELLMAN BARRETT, LLP  
12 Attorneys for Defendants  
13 50 Route 111  
14 Smithtown, New York 11787  
15 BY: JELTE DEJONG, ESQ.

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3 FEDERAL STIPULATIONS  
45 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by  
6 and between the parties hereto, through their  
7 respective counsel, that the certification,  
8 sealing and filing of the within examination  
9 will be and the same are hereby waived;10 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED  
11 that all objections, except as to the form of  
12 the question, will be reserved to the time of  
13 the trial;14 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that  
15 the within examination may be signed before any  
16 Notary Public with the same force and effect as  
17 if signed and sworn to before this Court.18  
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2 C H A R L E S        W E T L I ,        M . D . , the

3                      Witness herein, having been first duly  
4                      sworn by a Notary Public in and of the  
5                      State of New York, was examined and  
6                      testified as follows:

7                      EXAMINATION BY

8                      MR . TELESCA :

9                      Q                      Would you please state your full  
10                      name for the record.

11                      A                      Dr . Charles Wetli .

12                      Q                      What is your current address ?

13                      A                      2 Berkey -- B-E-R-K-E-Y -- Place ,  
14                      Alpine , New Jersey 07620-3798 .

15                      MR . TELESCA : Good morning ,  
16                      Doctor . We met before informally .  
17                      My name is Tom Telesca . I  
18                      represent Tina Bradway  
19                      individually and as the  
20                      administratrix of the estate of  
21                      her son , Tony Bradway .

22                      We 're here today to take  
23                      your deposition as an expert  
24                      witness . I assume you have been  
25                      deposed before .

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 THE WITNESS: Correct.

3 MR. TELESCA: Okay. So,  
4 you understand the process, and  
5 what I'll try to do is be clear  
6 with my questions, but if there's  
7 something that you don't  
8 understand, please feel free to  
9 ask me to clarify the question, or  
10 if there's a term that I'm  
11 misusing or is not clear to you,  
12 I'd ask that you ask me to  
13 rephrase the question.

14 THE WITNESS: Correct, I  
15 understand.

16 MR. TELESCA: Also, I'd ask  
17 that you give me the opportunity  
18 to complete my question just as  
19 much as I'll give you the  
20 opportunity to complete your  
21 answer before the next question.

22 THE WITNESS: Sounds fair.

23 MR. TELESCA: If at any  
24 time you need to take a break, let  
25 me know, and we can accommodate

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 you.

3 Q How did you prepare for today's  
4 deposition, if at all?

5 A I reviewed my file.

6 Q And what is your file?

7 A It consists of a letter I wrote to  
8 Ms. DeJong on the 15th of November 2010, some  
9 typewritten notes I made on October 17, 2010,  
10 and the various materials that were supplied to  
11 me, including covering letters, police reports,  
12 medical records, autopsy and toxicology reports  
13 and a variety of depositions.

14 MR. TELESCA: Okay, can we  
15 mark this as W-1.

16 (Exhibit W-1, Opinion  
17 letter of Dr. Wetli with CV,  
18 consisting of multiple pages, was  
19 marked for identification, as of  
20 this date.)

21 Q Dr. Wetli, I'm going to show you  
22 what's been marked as Exhibit W-1 (handing).  
23 Can you tell me, do you recognize that document?

24 A (Witness peruses document.)

25 Yes, it is the letter -- the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 opinion letter I wrote on November 15, 2010 and  
3 it's a copy of my CV, current as of the 4th of  
4 October 2010. The last page is my fee schedule,  
5 and in between is a list of court testimony from  
6 2006 through mid-2010.

7 Q Okay.

12 A Everything except an opinion  
13 letter by Dr. Blum. Apparently, I received that  
14 after the 15th.

15. O Okay.

16 And then you also mentioned before  
17 that you also have some notes in your file?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Can I just take a minute to look  
20 through the file?

21 A Sure (handing).

22 Q (Counsel peruses file.)

23                         Okay, I'd like to just go over  
24 some background information, first. Can you  
25 tell me, Dr. Wetli, who your current employer

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 is.

3                   A                Basically, I'm self-employed. I  
4                    retired from being the chief medical examiner  
5                   and director of forensic sciences for Suffolk  
6                   County, New York in August of 2006, and since  
7                   then I've been doing only consulting work.

8 Q What kind of consulting work do  
9 you do? .

10 A Anything in the realm of forensic  
11 pathology. It's predominantly cases like this,  
12 wrongful death, medical practice, criminal, but  
13 basically working -- being retained by attorneys  
14 to give an opinion.

15 Q And you have been doing that since  
16 roughly August, September 2006?

17                   A               Full time.  Prior to that, I did  
18                   it part time as separate from my duties as a  
19                   chief medical examiner, but really I started  
20                   doing consulting work in 1995, but then in 2006  
21                   I was doing it full time.

22 Q And I noticed in your CV up until  
23 1995, it seems as if you were living in Florida.

24 A That is correct.

25 Q And while you were in Florida you

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 weren't doing any of the kind of consulting work  
3 that you are doing now?

4 A Very rarely.

5 Q Does your current consulting  
6 business have a name?

7 A No. Sole proprietor.

8 Q And if you look at your -- what's  
9 been marked as W-1, which is the November 15,  
10 2010 letter, is it fair for me to refer to that  
11 as your report in this matter?

12 A Sure.

13 Q After your report is your CV?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Does your CV accurately reflect  
16 your educational background?

17 A Yes, it does.

18 Q And you testified earlier this CV  
19 was prepared October 4, 2010?

20 A Correct -- it was updated on  
21 October 4, 2010.

22 Q That was the last update?

23 A No, the last update was I think in  
24 January of this year.

25 Q But at the time you supplied this

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 to Ms. DeJong it was before the most recent  
3 update.

4 A      Correct.

5 Q Has anything in your educational  
6 background changed in the most recent update?

7 A N O .

8 Q And the October 2010 CV that we  
9 have that's part of W-1, does that accurately  
10 reflect the certifications and licenses that you  
11 have?

13 Q Have there been any new ones since  
14 October 2010?

15 A No, there have been no changes as  
16 far as certification and licensures.

17 Q In your CV I notice that you are  
18 or were at some point licensed to, I guess,  
19 practice medicine in Florida, Missouri, New York  
20 and New Jersey.

21                   A            Correct. Right now I have medical  
22                    licenses in New York and New Jersey. I allowed  
23                    the one in Florida and Missouri to expire.

24 Q Have you ever had a medical  
25 license suspended or revoked?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Never.

3 Q Have you ever been the subject of  
4 a disciplinary investigation, action or  
5 proceeding?

6 A Never.

7 Q During the course of your career  
8 as a doctor have you ever been affiliated with  
9 any hospitals?

10 A One.

11 Q What hospital was that?

12 A Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Miami,  
13 Florida.

14 Q Can you tell me the name again?

15 A Cedars of Lebanon.

16 Q When did you become affiliated, or  
17 when did you get the privileges at that  
18 hospital?

19 A That was in September of 1976.

20 Q When did that end?

21 A September of 1977.

22 Q So it was for one year.

23 A Correct.

24 Q And what was the reason why it  
25 ended?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2                   A           Because I did not like private  
3 practice and I decided to go into forensic  
4 pathology.

5 Q Okay, so there was never a time  
6 you lost your privileges at any hospital for  
7 which you were affiliated.

8                   A               No, never. Also, I don't know if  
9 you call it a hospital affiliation, but when I  
10 was, for three years, in the United States Army,  
11 as only the United States Army would do during  
12 that time, they had me covering the emergency  
13 room at a local hospital.

14 Q Where was that?

15 A Japan.

16 Q So for the three years you were in  
17 Japan?

18 A Yes. I was mostly working as a  
19 pathologist, but they had me on call for  
20 emergency room work.

21 Q Does your October 2010 CV  
22 accurately reflect your memberships in  
23 professional organizations?

24 A Yes

25 Q Has that been updated since

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 | October 2010?

3                   A               No, memberships have remained the  
4 same since then.

5 Q I'd like to just go through your  
6 employment history.

7 Is your employment the same thing  
8 as what you term "appointments" in your CV?

9 A . Basically, yes.

10 Q Okay.

11 So you finished medical school in  
12 the spring or early summer of 1969?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And then you were in the Army at  
15 that time?

16                   A                   No. After medical school, I did  
17                   my internship and residency at the University of  
18                   Miami School of Medicine and worked very briefly  
19                   for the Dade County Medical Service before going  
20                   into the United States Army in September of  
21                   1973.

22 After that, I did one year of  
23 private practice at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital,  
24 and then joined the Dade County Medical  
25 Examiner's Office full time in September of

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 1977.

3 Q And then at some point you became  
4 the deputy chief medical examiner in Dade  
5 County?

6 A That's correct. I believe that  
7 was 1980.

8 Q And that was until January of  
9 1995?

10 A Correct. Also, during my tenure  
11 in Dade County, Florida I was clinical associate  
12 professor of pathology at the Miami School of  
13 Medicine.

14 Q And in February of 1995 you moved  
15 up to either New York or New Jersey -- I guess,  
16 it was New York; is that correct?

17 A Both.

18 Q Okay.

19 A Actually -- it's kind of  
20 complicated. Actually, I moved to New Jersey,  
21 and worked in Long Island --

22 Q Okay.

23 A -- for all practical purposes;  
24 although, I did have an address in Long Island,  
25 but I did not live there.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q Was there any specific reason why  
3 you left your position in Dade County to come to  
4 work on Long Island for Suffolk County?

5 A I had the opportunity to become  
6 chief medical examiner in forensic sciences.

7 Q Is that a position that you  
8 applied for?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How did you find out about that  
11 position?

12 A Because the current chief medical  
13 examiner, who was a former resident of mine in  
14 Dade County, was leaving that position, and I  
15 heard it had become open, so I applied.

16 Q And then also at or about that  
17 time did you also teach at SUNY Stony Brook?

18 A Correct. I was clinical professor  
19 of pathology at the State University of New York  
20 at Stony Brook.

21 Q Dr. Wetli, your October 2010 CV,  
22 does it list all the presentations you have  
23 given in the last ten years?

24 A No, not at all.

25 Q So are there some additional ones

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 that were prior to October 2010?

3 A Oh, yes.

4 Q Did any of those presentations  
5 have subject matter related to a quote/unquote  
6 "body packer"?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you know how many?

9 A I have no idea. The only -- if I  
10 may clarify, the only presentations listed in my  
11 CV are those that have been peer reviewed.  
12 Other presentations would be, for example, to  
13 police academies, high school students, rotary  
14 clubs, et cetera, et cetera, and over the years,  
15 these were numerous.

16 But those are all more or less  
17 pretty much informal presentations, not formal  
18 peer-reviewed presentations, which is what is  
19 listed in my CV.

20 Q And then the ones listed on your  
21 CV that were peer reviewed -- can you tell me  
22 what does that mean, "peer reviewed"?

23 A Basically, if you are going to  
24 make a presentation at a national meeting, you  
25 must first submit an abstract. This is reviewed

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 by other forensic pathologists who then make a  
3 decision as to whether or not it is acceptable,  
4 scientifically sound. And then they further  
5 decide whether it will be a platform  
6 presentation -- that is, an actual talk and  
7 slide show -- versus a poster presentations.

8 Q And is a poster presentation  
9 exactly what it -- a poster literally gets put  
10 up?

11                   A                Exactly. You might have, for  
12 example, a poster that covers your entire wall  
13 here (indicating). It will be in the format of  
14 paper illustrations, summaries, abstracts, and  
15 so forth, discussion.

16 Q I see on Page 8 of the CV,  
17 Number 7, there's a presentation entitled "The  
18 Body Packer Syndrome," and it looks like it was  
19 before the American Academy of Forensic Science  
20 in February 1981.

21 A Correct.

22 Q Do you recall the specific subject  
23 matter of that presentation?

24 A That was it, the body packer  
25 syndrome.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q Was there any specific area of the  
3 body packer syndrome that you covered, or was it  
4 a general presentation, if you can recall?

5                   A            Yeah, it was actually -- this was  
6 subsequently published in that same journal as a  
7 peer-reviewed article and it basically described  
8 the body packer syndrome with the toxicology  
9 levels of cocaine and so forth. .

10 Q So this body packer syndrome  
11 presentation was specifically related to  
12 cocaine, or drugs in general?

13 A Well, the only ones we saw in  
14 Miami in those days was cocaine. Subsequently,  
15 we've seen heroin, too.

16 Q And for the record, can you  
17 explain to us what "the body packer syndrome"  
18 is?

19                   A                   A "body packer" is basically a  
20                   person who swallows packages of drugs, usually  
21                   in -- well, in those days, from South America,  
22                   usually Columbia. They would swallow them,  
23                   board an airplane headed for Miami, and then  
24                   they would go to a hotel room, pass these  
25                   condoms or other packets, and retrieve the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 drugs. However, when they broke open, they  
3 killed the person, and that's when the medical  
4 examiner got involved, and that was what we were  
5 describing in the fatalities.

6 Q Is there any limit or approximate  
7 amount of cocaine that would be carried in the  
8 normal body packet?

9 A In those days, we were generally  
10 talking just under a kilogram altogether.

11 Q How many grams is that?

12 A A thousand. Others -- since then,  
13 up to one-and-a-half kilos or more have been  
14 reported.

15 Q So one kilogram is a thousand  
16 grams, which is how many milligrams, a hundred  
17 thousand?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And in that presentation, if you  
20 can recall, did you present any conclusions in  
21 terms of the amount of time it would take from  
22 the leaking of the packet, or the breakage of  
23 the packet to the time of death?

24 A That was pretty hard to really  
25 come up with. We would see -- from other things

C. Wetli, M.D.

2 we knew about cocaine, people swallowing cocaine  
3 and so forth, symptoms would usually begin 20 to  
4 30 minutes after the drug would become absorbed.  
5 Sometimes, if the packet completely broke open,  
6 then within a half hour the person is having  
7 seizures and is dead. If it was a very slow  
8 leak, then symptoms can actually go on for some  
9 period of time before they would actually die.

10 Q And what would be some of the  
11 first symptoms that you would see in the case of  
12 a slow leak?

13           A           You would see a person who could  
14        become very agitated, they could become  
15        psychotic, high body temperatures. Those would  
16        be some of the symptoms. Sometimes they became  
17        incredibly constipated and they were saddled  
18        with distended abdomens, because of swollen  
19        intestines. There could be a variety of things  
20        that happen to them.

21 Q And does your CV also list all  
22 governmental testimony and symposia that you  
23 have presented in the last ten years?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Now, would those also be peer

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 | reviewed?

3                   A                   No, they would be invited. For  
4 example, the President's Commission on Organized  
5 Crime, governor's councils, certain Grand Jury  
6 presentations. These are organizations,  
7 governmental organizations, that are requesting  
8 knowledge of a particular topic, such as cocaine  
9 toxicity, Quaaludes, that type of thing, which I  
10 participated in.

11 Q On Page 12 of your CV under  
12 Number 11, you gave -- I don't know if it was  
13 testimony or a presentation to the National  
14 Institute on Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Maryland on  
15 July 9th through 10, 1991 entitled "Acute  
16 Cocaine Intoxication: Current Methods of  
17 Treatment."

18 Do you see that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was that testimony or some sort of  
21 presentation? How would you describe that?

22 A That was mostly a presentation to  
23 the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and it was  
24 subsequently published under monograph. It's  
25 listed NIH Publication 93-3498.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q And when you say "acute cocaine  
3 intoxication," what does that mean, "acute"?

4 A Basically a surge of cocaine in  
5 the blood, and it can cause a variety of things  
6 to happen to a person. It can cause seizures  
7 and sudden death; it can cause psychotic  
8 reactions, which can lead to sudden death; it  
9 can cause vascular problems, such as  
10 hypertensive crisis, aortic dissections and  
11 ruptured aneurysms, which can lead to immediate  
12 death; and it can also lead to heart attack,  
13 which can also kill you quickly.

14 Q And the presentation, obviously,  
15 according to its title, involved, at that time,  
16 current methods of treatment?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And at that time, what were, if  
19 any, the methods of treatment for acute cocaine  
20 intoxication?

21 A Basically the same as they are  
22 today; treat the symptoms, whatever they may be.

23 Q What does that mean, "treat the  
24 symptoms"?

25 A Well, if a person comes in with

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 110 fever, you try to cool them down; if they  
3 are psychotic, you try to tranquilize them.

4 There are certain drugs you can or cannot use if  
5 it's cocaine toxicity.

6 If a person is having seizures,  
7 you would administer intravenous diazepam and/or  
8 dilantin or other drugs to calm down the seizure  
9 activity and so forth. That's all you can do.

10 Q So there's no antidote for  
11 cocaine?

12 A No, unlike narcotics, there is no  
13 antidote for cocaine.

14 Q If someone presents in the  
15 emergency room who has ingested a certain amount  
16 of cocaine, is there anything that you can do to  
17 rid the body of the cocaine?

18 A Not effectively. If it's a body  
19 packer, it requires surgery, generally. If they  
20 are showing signs of cocaine toxicity, you must  
21 operate immediately, because there's obviously a  
22 package that's broken open or leaking. The only  
23 chance of survival is to remove all the cocaine  
24 from the entire gastrointestinal tract.

25 If there are no symptoms, you can

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

simply give them laxatives and follow up by X-ray as they excrete them, but once they start having symptoms, then you would have to get rid of the cocaine.

6 I don't know if activated charcoal  
7 is effective with cocaine or not, otherwise you  
8 would have to get it out of the stomach or  
9 wherever the cocaine happened to be.

10 If it's a mini-packer and they  
11 simply swallowed cocaine without the package,  
12 then gastric lavage would be the only way to get  
13 it out.

14 Q And what is that, a "gastric  
15 lavage"?

16 A                   Washing the stomach. Basically,  
17 you put down a tube through the nose into the  
18 stomach and flush with saline and draw out as  
19 much as you can.

20 Q So then there are -- I'm just  
21 trying to understand and condense what you said.  
22 You can surgically remove a packet?

23 A If you can identify the packet, if  
24 you can see the packet, yes, but otherwise, you  
25 are going to be doing exploratory laparotomy and

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 going through the entire bowel to see if you can  
3 find a packet.

4 Q And "laparotomy" is an operation  
5 of the stomach?

6 A Well, opening up the abdomen and  
7 inspecting everything that's in there.

9           A           But if there's no packet, then  
10            there's not much you can do.

11 Q Well, if you can't find the packet  
12 but the cocaine is in the stomach, you can try  
13 to flush it out through some sort of tube?

14 A You could try, yes. I've never  
15 seen that successfully done, but you can try.

16 Q Have you ever treated a person who  
17 has ingested cocaine in an emergency room  
18 situation?

19 A I'm not a treating physician.

20 Q In your October 2010 CV does it  
21 list all of your publications in the last ten  
22 years?

23 A Yes Yes

24 Q Have there been any since  
25 October 2010?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A No, there have not.

3 Q Do you know, as you sit here  
4 today, what portion of your CV has been updated  
5 since October 2010?

6 A Only some activities with the  
7 National Association of Medical Examiners.

8 Q Did any of those activities have  
9 to do with the body packers?

10 A No.

11 Q If you look at Page 14 of your CV,  
12 Number 15, there is a publication entitled "The  
13 Body Packer Syndrome: Toxicity Following  
14 Ingestion of Illicit Drugs Packaged For  
15 Transportation," and that's in the Journal of  
16 Forensic Science in 1981.

17 A Correct. That was the formal  
18 article following the presentation that was  
19 given at the academy.

20 Q Okay.

21 And so the topic of the article  
22 and the topic of the presentation were the same?

23 A Exactly. The platform  
24 presentation was a preview for the article.

25 Q And then Number 17 on that same

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 page, also from 1981, is a publication entitled  
3 "Cocaine Intoxication: Delirium and Death in a  
4 Body Packer."

5 Can you tell me what the subject  
6 matter on that article was?

7                   A                   Sure.    That was a case report  
8                   based on an individual who was a body packer, a  
9                   cocaine body packer, from Columbia, South  
10                  America, and he had passed all of the packets of  
11                  cocaine except for one which became, shall we  
12                  say, stuck in the right side of his colon, and  
13                  lingered there, as I recall, for approximately a  
14                  week and deteriorated, and the cocaine release  
15                  caused him to become psychotic, violent and die  
16                  suddenly.

17 It's a syndrome which my coauthor,  
18 Dr. Fishbein, identified as "excited delirium"  
19 due to cocaine.

20 Q Was that a new term of art at that  
21 time, excited delirium?

22 A It was the first I had heard it.  
23 He's the one who introduced me to the term.

24 Q Is he the one that coined the  
25 term?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A No.

3 Q Now, earlier you testified that  
4 the body packers could be carrying as much as  
5 one kilogram of cocaine.

6 A Correct.

7 Q Now, would that be in one or more  
8 than one package, or it depended?

9 A Oh, not one package, no. Numerous  
10 packages, a hundred, hundred-thirty.

11 Q And how big would these separate  
12 packages be?

13 A Each package would hold about 10  
14 to 15 grams of cocaine.

15 Q And how big would that package be  
16 in terms of size, if you could tell me?

17 A Oh, generally, they are about an  
18 inch long and a half-inch diameter,  
19 approximately. Very large pills to swallow.

20 Q Now, the publications that you  
21 have listed in your CV, were they all peer  
22 reviewed?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did you receive any comments on  
25 the two that we discussed related to body

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 | packing?

3                   A            I don't believe so. That was a  
4 long time ago. I don't recall. I don't believe  
5 so.

6 Q Now, since the two publications in  
7 1981, have you done any further formal research  
8 on the topic of body packing?

9 A Sure.

10 Q And when was the most recent time  
11 you performed research on body packing?

12 A That would have been probably  
13 around late 1990s when we published an article  
14 on heroin body packing.

15 Let me see if I can find it for  
16 you quickly.

17 (Witness perusing document.)

18 Here it is, Reference Number 88,  
19 1997.

20 Q Are there significant distinctions  
21 between heroin body packing and cocaine body  
22 packing in terms of what kind of treatment can  
23 be administered if there's a leak?

24 A Oh, yes.

25 Q What is the distinction?

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2                   A           Well, heroin is a narcotic, and  
3 therefore would be amenable to treatment with  
4 Narcan -- N-A-R-C-A-N -- which is a direct  
5 antagonist. So if you would inject Narcan into  
6 a person having an opiate overdose, it will  
7 counteract it. It's basically an antidote,  
8 which would be life-saving. But heroin body  
9 packers never make it to the emergency room.

11                   A           Because the heroin is too  
12 valuable. They allow the person to die, then  
13 they cut them open and remove the heroin  
14 themselves. That's one of the big differences  
15 between heroin and cocaine body packing.

16 Q I'd like now to turn to the cases  
17 that you have listed at the end of your CV --

18 A For the record, that's not part of  
19 my CV. It's a separate document, but I don't  
20 consider that as part of my CV.

21 Q Sure.

24 A Right.

25 Q Okay.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Now, does your -- I'll call it  
3 your case list; is that fair?

4 A Well, it's a list of testimony,  
5 anyway.

6 Q Okay.

7 Your list of testimony, does it  
8 include all cases where you testified at trial  
9 or by deposition in the last four years?

10 A If I was put under oath, it's  
11 listed; court marshals, inquests, whatever.

12 Q Okay.

13 Do any of the cases in the last  
14 four years -- are they specifically related to a  
15 body packer?

16 A I don't recall body packer. What  
17 we call mini-packer people -- a body packer is  
18 somebody smuggling the drug in from another  
19 country -- were other cases I've had. I don't  
20 recall if I actually testified or not. They are  
21 people who are being arrested by police and  
22 swallow the cocaine to avoid the detection of  
23 the drug, and they subsequently die due to the  
24 toxicity. I've had a number of those cases. As  
25 to whether I've testified or not, I don't

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 | recall.

With a mini-packer, does that mean  
that the cocaine that was ingested was contained  
within a bag?

9 A . Could be.

10 Q But it's not necessary?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay.

13 So there are cases where you used  
14 the phrase "mini-packer" where a person may have  
15 just ingested cocaine itself?

16           A        Correct. It could be in the form  
17        of a powder or it could be crack cocaine or it  
18        could be cocaine in packets that were -- where  
19        the person had an intent to sell the packets or  
20        purchased the packets, either one, but they had  
21        the packets of cocaine, and so in order to avoid  
22        police detection they swallowed the packets of  
23        whatever they had.

24 Q In your review of the records in  
25 this case, did Mr. Bradway swallow the cocaine

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 itself or within a package?

3                   A                   As far as we can tell, he probably  
4                   did both.    As I recall -- as I understand the  
5                   sequence of events, when he was at the point --  
6                   when the police were at the scene, at the home,  
7                   he spit out a package as well as separately a  
8                   white substance.   After he died and the autopsy  
9                   was done, they looked for a packet, the remnants  
10                  of a packet, and couldn't find one.

11 Q What does that signify to you?

12 A That unless he had a bowel  
13 movement at some time after he was in the  
14 hospital, that he swallowed -- it's hard to  
15 reconcile. He would have to -- most likely, I  
16 think the packet was missed. It was just not  
17 found, because it's a very -- when you have a  
18 lot of cocaine present, as he did, it kills very  
19 quickly, and so I'd be surprised that there is  
20 no cocaine packet.

21 Q So it is your testimony that you  
22 think one possibility is that the medical  
23 examiner missed the packet?

24 A Or whoever is looking through the  
25 intestinal contents, yes, or that he passed it

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 somewhere in the hospital. He was in the  
3 hospital, I think, altogether for about seven  
4 hours or something, so I don't know.

5 Q In the list of testimony that's  
6 part of Exhibit W-1, are there any cases in  
7 which you gave testimony involving an allegation  
8 that there was a failure to get medical  
9 attention related to a cocaine overdose?

10 A I don't recall that I testified to  
11 that. I know I've had cases where that  
12 allegation was made, but whether I testified  
13 subsequently at trial, I don't recall.

14 Q Do you recall the most recent case  
15 where that allegation was made?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you recall in the last four  
18 years how many cases you have been involved with  
19 in which the allegation of -- there was an  
20 allegation that there was a failure to obtain  
21 medical attention after someone ingested  
22 cocaine?

23 A I couldn't tell you. I don't keep  
24 records of that.

25 O Okay.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

9 (The requested portion of  
10 the record was read by the court  
11 reporter.)

12                   A                   Generally the conclusions I  
13                   reached is that had they gotten them medical  
14                   attention, the outcome would not have changed  
15                   because there is no antidote for cocaine. Once  
16                   the symptoms begin, you can't treat them,  
17                   especially a true overdose.

18 Q How would you define an  
19 "overdose"?

20 A An overdose of cocaine is  
21 generally marked by the presence of grand-mal  
22 seizures, and if it's a nonfatal overdose, the  
23 seizures are very limited and transient and over  
24 with by the time the person gets to the  
25 emergency room. If it's a fatal overdose, the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 seizure is usually the terminal event. They die  
3 in the police station.

4 Q So if someone ingested some amount  
5 of cocaine, you testified earlier, that it is  
6 possible -- although there's no antidote for the  
7 cocaine, there is potential treatment in that  
8 you can try to remove the cocaine from the  
9 stomach, for example?

10 A If you can see a drug packet  
11 there, otherwise you would have to presumably  
12 try and lavage the drug out of the stomach. I  
13 guess you could theoretically go in, operate and  
14 empty the stomach that way. Of course, I've  
15 never heard of that being done.

16 Q And you are not familiar or aware  
17 of the success of using charcoal?

18 A I have no idea of charcoal ever  
19 working.

20 Q And exactly how would the  
21 charcoal -- it would be administered by the  
22 mouth?

23 A I'm not really sure. I think it's  
24 generally administered by a nasogastric tube,  
25 basically injected into the nasogastric tube so

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 it goes through the gastrointestinal tract and  
3 finds drugs. With a very highly water-soluble  
4 drug like cocaine, I don't know if it would be  
5 effective. I just don't know. You would have  
6 to ask a clinician that.

7 Q Do you recall when you were  
8 retained by Ms. DeJong's firm for this matter?

9                   A               I believe it was late summer or  
10                   early fall of 2010.

11 Q And by whom were you retained?

12 A By Ms. DeJong.

13 Q By her firm?

14                   A            Correct. September 17th is when I  
15 received the initial materials -- well, the  
16 covering letter is dated September 17, 2010.

17 Q And before that date, you had some  
18 conversations with Ms. DeJong?

19 A Right, actually in August of 2010.

20 Q So it was at or about August of  
21 2010 that you were retained?

22 A Basically it was inquirous to  
23 whether I would be willing to be retained in  
24 August, and then I was retained in September.

25 Q I understand.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 And you are being compensated in  
3 accordance with the fee schedule that's the last  
4 page of W-1?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And what was it that -- let me  
7 take a step back.

8 Other than Ms. DeJong, did you  
9 speak with anybody else from her firm with  
10 regard to --

11 A No, not that I recall.

12 Q So your primary contact concerning  
13 this matter has been with Ms. DeJong?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And what did she ask you to do?

16 A Determine the cause of death and  
17 to see if the hour-and-a-half delay from the  
18 time he was arrested to the time he got to the  
19 hospital had any significant impact or affected  
20 the outcome of Mr. Bradway.

21 Q What conclusion did you reach?

22 A No, it did not.

23 Q Other than the items that are  
24 listed at the very beginning of your report, did  
25 you review any other data, information or

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 documents?

3 A No. As I said, the only thing I  
4 reviewed that's not listed in my report is the  
5 report of Dr. Blum, B-L-U-M.

6 Q And the information that you  
7 reviewed you received from Ms. DeJong; correct?

8 A Correct.

9 Q In forming your conclusion, did  
10 you review any literature?

11 A No.

12 Q Can you tell me, then, your  
13 conclusion is that the period of time between  
14 Mr. Bradway's arrest and the time at which he  
15 reached the hospital, that, I'll call it,  
16 "delay" didn't have any impact on the ability of  
17 his life to be saved?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Okay.

20 And what do you base that  
21 conclusion on?

22 A Basically the toxicology. He's  
23 got phenomenally high levels of cocaine in his  
24 system. He's got -- people who die with a  
25 psychotic reaction to cocaine generally have

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 about .8 milligrams per liter of cocaine in the  
3 blood. People who die with seizures from a true  
4 overdose of cocaine, the average is about  
5 5 milligrams per liter. He's got 6.5.

6 He's got incredibly high levels in  
7 the brain. He's still has 2 grams remaining in  
8 his stomach. He's got very high levels of  
9 cocaine metabolite in his blood and about half  
10 that in the brain. He's also been in the  
11 hospital for a number of hours, so he's got  
12 incredibly high levels. He's been absorbing a  
13 lot of cocaine.

14 Q Can you determine at what point --  
15 or did you determine at what point Mr. Bradway  
16 ingested the cocaine?

17 A All we know is what the police  
18 report said. They saw him chewing on something  
19 and they applied the Taser twice, forcing him to  
20 spit out what they thought was all that he had  
21 ingested, and he would have had to have ingested  
22 it all that the point.

23 Q Okay.

24 So, I just want to make sure I  
25 understand you correctly. Is it your testimony

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 that Mr. Bradway ingested all of the cocaine at  
3 one time?

4 MS. DEJONG: I'm objecting.

5 I don't believe he testified to  
6 that. You are having him guess at  
7 this point.

8                   A                   Right. All I can do is rely on  
9 the police reports. They said they saw him  
10 ingest it -- chewing something. They told him  
11 to spit it out. They Tasered him twice. To my  
12 knowledge, they never saw him ingest anything  
13 else after that incident. So if that's true,  
14 then he would have had to have ingested it all  
15 at one time.

16 Q So looking at your report, and  
17 just -- I guess in understanding the timeline, I  
18 think you would agree that he was arrested, at  
19 least according to the report, at 10:25 a.m. on  
20 the morning of June 8th.

21 A      Correct.

22 Q And that the police observed him  
23 ingesting some amount of cocaine.

24 A Correct

25 O And nobody is disputing that he

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 ingested some amount of cocaine.

3 A Correct.

4 Q Now, in your report -- and I'm  
5 looking at the last paragraph on the second  
6 page, and I'm just going to read it into the  
7 record, the first couple of sentences.

15 So I guess I just want to be clear  
16 that we don't know at the time of his arrest  
17 whether he ingested the cocaine within or  
18 without some other kind of packet or package?

19 A Let me explain to you, if I can  
20 clarify.

21 Q Sure.

22                   A                   People who are mini-packers, when  
23                   they don't have a package of cocaine, they just  
24                   have the powder, and they are about to be  
25                   arrested by the police and they swallow that

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 powder to avoid detection, the usual story is  
3 they are arrested, taken to the police station,  
4 and about a half-hour after they are -- after  
5 that first encounter, about a half-hour or so,  
6 they suddenly go into seizures which are fatal.  
7 So it's about a half hour after the ingestion.

23 Q Are there any factors which may  
24 delay the effect of cocaine?

25 A Not that I know of.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 Q So your genetics or your ability  
3 to metabolize or your own tolerance for the  
4 drug --

5                   A        Not when it comes to overdoses  
6 such as we see here. There are some genetic  
7 differences in the way males and females handle  
8 cocaine, but generally in relationship to the  
9 excited delirium, not to the overdose.

10 Q So the 30-minute time period  
11 between -- is it ingestion and the seizure, is  
12 that 30 minutes the maximum amount of time?

13                   A               All I can say is it's  
14                   approximately 30 minutes, because nobody is  
15                   sitting there with a stopwatch, and ingestion,  
16                   as I said, could be swallowed, sometimes it's  
17                   due to vaginal installation of cocaine, same  
18                   thing happens, about a half hour.

19 Q Is there a distinction between  
20 "ingestion" and "absorption"?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What is that distinction?

23 A Well, "ingestion" -- I can swallow  
24 the packet of cocaine, so I'm ingesting it, but  
25 it's not being absorbed until that packet

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 | breaks. Then, it's being absorbed.

3 Q If you swallow a certain amount of  
4 cocaine outside of a packet, just the actual  
5 drug, how long does it take to begin to absorb  
6 into the stomach?

7           A           Like all water-soluble drugs, they  
8           will start to be absorbed in 20 minutes.  But  
9           cocaine, you can get variations in there because  
10          cocaine also constricts blood vessels.  Very  
11          high concentrations can also dilate blood  
12          vessels and cause bleeding, so there's some  
13          variation there, but generally, it's about  
14          20 minutes, like most water-soluble drugs.

15 Q And then it's 20 to 30 minutes  
16 from the time of absorption, if it's a lethal  
17 amount of cocaine, before you have the first  
18 seizure?

19 A From the time of ingestion.

20 Q Okay, that's what I'm trying to  
21 make sure of.

22 A Right. No, it's the time of  
23 ingestion.

24 Q So it would be approximately ten  
25 minutes, plus or -- obviously, like you said,

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 there's no stopwatch, but approximately ten  
3 minutes after the drug begins to absorb before  
4 the seizures would begin?

5                   A                   Well, the drug is going to start  
6 getting absorbed right away, but it might be  
7 about 20 minutes before we can see detectable  
8 levels. When they take volunteers, for example,  
9 give them cocaine, they draw the blood at  
10 various time intervals. It's usually about  
11 20 minutes before the blood levels start to rise  
12 rapidly.

23 Q Right.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 A Not that I'm aware of, no.

3 Q And is it true, though, that the  
4 rate of absorption in the stomach would be  
5 slower than, for example, if you put the cocaine  
6 in your nose or your mouth?

7 A No, it's pretty much the same.

8 Again, you are going to be getting less cocaine  
9 in the nose or the mouth, because, first of all,  
10 using less cocaine and secondly, you are getting  
11 the vasoconstriction of the blood vessels. That  
12 doesn't necessarily happen in the stomach.

13 Q In the documents that you  
14 reviewed, is it your understanding that  
15 Mr. Bradway was Tasered by the police?

16 A Yeah, in drive-stun mode, that's  
17 correct.

18 Q Now, would the Taser have any  
19 impact on the absorption rate of the cocaine  
20 into Mr. Bradway's system?

21 A Not at all.

22 Q And you reviewed the hospital  
23 records; correct?

24 A Correct.

25 MR. TELESCA: Would you

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 mark this W-2, please.

3 (Exhibit W-2, Hospital  
4 records for Mr. Bradway, was  
5 marked for identification, as of  
6 this date.)

7 Q Dr. Wetli, I am going to show you  
8 what's been marked Exhibit 2. Do you recognize  
9 those records (handing)?

10 A (Witness peruses document.)

11 These appear to be the hospital  
12 records I reviewed concerning Mr. Bradway.

13 Q Now, it's your opinion that  
14 Mr. Bradway, at the time of his arrest, must  
15 have swallowed a packet of cocaine that was  
16 intact; correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And that at some point after his  
19 arrest, the package ruptured.

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay.

22 And in your report on Page 3, in  
23 the last paragraph you wrote: "The packet began  
24 to leak and finally ruptured after he" --  
25 Mr. Bradway -- "had already arrived at the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 hospital."

3 A Correct.

4 Q What do you base that conclusion  
5 on?

6 A Because had he had it rupture at  
7 the time that he was arrested, then he would  
8 have died at the police station. He would not  
9 have made it to the hospital.

10 Q But it could have ruptured  
11 sometime between the time of his arrest and the  
12 time he arrived in the emergency room.

13 A It's possible it could have  
14 started leaking at that particular point, but it  
15 wouldn't have been a bursting with a sudden  
16 release of 5 grams of cocaine into him at that  
17 point.

18 Q So it's your conclusion that the  
19 packet didn't leak, it actually ruptured, or you  
20 don't know?

21 A There's no way to know for sure.

22 Q Okay.

23 So there's no way for you to know  
24 whether or not the package first started to leak  
25 and combined with the cocaine that Mr. Bradway

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 ingested outside of the packet?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And if you look at -- I tried to  
5 make this easier for us, the first flagged  
6 page --

7 A Correct.

8 Q -- which should be -- on the top  
9 it's "Report of Consultation by" the consultant  
10 is Rajesh -- R-A-J-E-S-H -- Patel, M.D.

11 A Right.

12 Q And if you look at that report,  
13 about midway down the history, it says: "Upon  
14 arrival to the emergency room, he" --  
15 Mr. Bradway -- "was extremely agitated and  
16 Ativan 2 milligrams IN was given." Do you see  
17 that?

18 A Correct.

19 Q So the fact that Mr. Bradway upon  
20 arrival to the emergency room was extremely  
21 agitated, what does that signify to you?

22 A He's having some cocaine toxicity.

23 Q Okay.

24 Now, do we know whether that's  
25 related to the package leaking or being ruptured

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 or whether it may have been the cocaine that he  
3 ingested outside of the package?

4 A It could have been a combination  
5 of both. Shortly after that, about 15 minutes  
6 later, he starts having seizures. So it  
7 indicates it would be more likely that the  
8 package is beginning to rupture.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And based on your review of the  
11 medical records, can you determine that  
12 15 minutes, what that time period is measured  
13 from?

14 MS. DEJONG: Do you  
15 understand the question?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 A From the time they gave him the  
18 Ativan, apparently. That's the way I interpret  
19 the record, anyway.

20 Q Now, if you look at -- I believe  
21 it's the third tab --

22 A (Witness complies.)

23 Q -- which is the emergency room  
24 nursing record; is that correct?

25 A Yes.

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 MR. TELESCA: It looks like  
3 this page here (indicating).

4 MS. DEJONG: Yes, I have  
5 it.

6 Q So at the very top, it says that  
7 he arrived at 12:04 --

8 A Correct.

9 Q -- to the emergency room. And in  
10 the right column under "General Appearance," it  
11 records severe distress and that Mr. Bradway was  
12 agitated; correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q So again, what does that signify  
15 to you?

16 A Well, in context of this case,  
17 that he's having cocaine toxicity.

18 Q And if you look at the next page,  
19 it lists medications on the left-hand side, and  
20 the first time that the Ativan appears to be  
21 administered was at 12:50; correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q So then it would be -- according  
24 to the record of Dr. Patel, the first seizure  
25 occurred 15 minutes after the first

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 administration of the Ativan?

3 A      **Correct.**

4 Q So that would have been about  
5 1:05 p.m.?

6 A      Correct.

7 Q Early in your testimony you  
8 stated that in a case where the hospital can  
9 determine that there actually is a packet in the  
10 stomach, it could be removed?

11 A If they could find it, yes.

12 Q And how would they find it?

13           A           You would -- well, by X-ray, you  
14 would have to get a leakage of fluid into the  
15 package itself and then you would see what's --  
16 it's called a double condom sign, you get air  
17 and fluid in there which would outline the  
18 packets; you could see it that way. Otherwise,  
19 you might not be able to see it.

With today's technology of MRIs  
and CTs, I don't know if they would pick it up  
or not.

23 Q So when you say you could see it,  
24 how would you be able to see it?

25 A On X-ray, an outline of the

1 C. Wetli, M.D.

2 packet. You don't see all of the packets, but  
3 you see some of them.

4 Q In Mr. Bradway's case, do you know  
5 whether or not the packet he swallowed could  
6 have been seen with an X-ray?

7 A I have no idea.

8 Q We don't know what kind of packet  
9 it was; correct?

10 A Exactly. And as far as I know,  
11 they did not take any abdominal X-rays; they  
12 just took chest X-rays.

13 MR. TELESCA: I have no  
14 further questions.

15 (Time noted: 11:42 a.m.)

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1  
2 A C K N O W L E D G M E N T  
34 STATE OF NEW YORK )  
5 :ss  
6 COUNTY OF )  
78 I, CHARLES WETLI, M.D., hereby certify  
9 that I have read the transcript of my testimony  
10 taken under oath in my deposition of April 13,  
11 2011; that the transcript is a true and complete  
12 record of my testimony, and that the answers on  
13 the record as given by me are true and correct.

14

15

16 CHARLES WETLI, M.D.  
17

18

Signed and subscribed to before me this  
19 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

20

21

22 Notary Public, State of New York  
23

24

25

1  
2 INDEX TO TESTIMONY  
3

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1  
2 ERRATA SHEET FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF:  
3 Case Name: Bradway v. Town of Southampton, et al  
4 Deposition Date: April 13, 2011  
5 Deponent: Charles Wetli, M.D.  
6 Place: 1425 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, New York

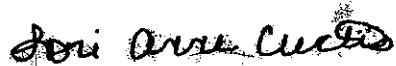
7 CORRECTIONS

PG	LN	NOW READS	SHOULD READ	REASON FOR
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19	---	-----	-----	-----
20				
21	Date		-----	

Signature

22 Subscribed and sworn to before me  
23 this day of 2011.

24 -----  
25 (NOTARY PUBLIC)

1  
2 C E R T I F I C A T E  
34 I, LORI ANNE CURTIS, a Notary Public in  
5 and for the State of New York, do hereby  
6 certify:7 THAT the witness(es) whose testimony is  
8 hereinbefore set forth, was duly sworn by me;  
9 and10 THAT the within transcript is a true  
11 record of the testimony given by said  
12 witness(es).13 I further certify that I am not related,  
14 either by blood or marriage, to any of the  
15 parties in this action; and16 THAT I am in no way interested in the  
17 outcome of this matter.18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
19 my hand this 23rd day of April, 2011.20  
21  
22   
23 LORI ANNE CURTIS  
24  
25